



PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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ENFORCEMENT HEARING RESULTS IN VIOLATIONS OF LAW

Olympia – Chair of the Public Disclosure Commission, Christine Yorozu, found two candidates and the superintendent of the Pioneer School District in Shelton, in violation of state Public Disclosure laws during brief enforcement hearings held Tuesday in Olympia.

Three individuals were found in violation of the Public Disclosure Act.

Richard Benjamin, candidate for City Council of the City of Des Moines, was found in violation of state law for failing to timely file the mandatory 21 day pre-general election C-4 report, the post election C-4 report and reports of contributions which deprived the public from knowing whether the campaign had received contributions or made expenditures until after the general election. Benjamin was assessed a civil penalty of \$200 of which \$100 was suspended on the condition no further violations of the statute are committed for a period of four years.

Nathan Herzog, candidate for City Council of the City of Lake Forest Part, was found in violation of state law for failure to timely file contribution and expenditure reports. Herzog was assessed a civil penalty of \$500 for failure to timely file complete finance disclosure reports when he changed reporting options from mini reporting to full reporting and was between 48 to 159 days late with reports of contributions and expenditures. He also had two prior violations for late reporting of disclosure reports.

Richard Sirokman, Superintendent of the Pioneer School District in Shelton, was found in violation of state law for authorizing the use of public facilities to support passage of the District's 2002 ballot proposition. Sirokman was assessed a civil penalty of \$250 for the production and distribution of the Pioneer School District's Bond & Levy Facts which included misleading information on the actual cost of the 2002 bond proposal. The school district was cautioned in 1999 about underestimating the cost of District ballot propositions.

On Tuesday, Yorozu also referred the case against Gary Long, City Manager of Burien, to the full Commission for enforcement action. Long is charged with violating the prohibition against use of public facilities in campaigns by authorizing the distribution of a "fact sheet" that opposed Initiative 747.